# A Brief History of The Development of The Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs

## How did we get to the 28 fundamental beliefs?

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It was in 1872 when Battle Creek published twenty propositions of our faith. This was later on slightly revised and expanded in 1889 and was inserted again in the years of 1905-1914. It came to pass, that church leaders in Africa requested the Church to help them have a better understanding of Adventism and the committee of four, including the General Conference President sat and prepared the principal features of beliefs in a summary of twenty-two fundamental beliefs and was first published in 1931 Yearbook.

In the 1980 General conference session the church came up with a similar but more comprehensive summary in twenty-seven paragraphs, published under the title "Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." In these fundamental beliefs, Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Bible is our Only "Creed and (we) hold to certain fundamental Beliefs to be the Teachings of the Holy Scriptures." The Seventh-day Adventists have one creed: “The Bible and Bible alone.”- (See SDA Believe). Later, the Church expanded these Fundamental beliefs, (now twenty-eight). This expansion took place in the 2005 Session of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, when an additional fundamental belief was voted, not to add new or previously unknown material, but better to express

the church's understanding of God's power to give victorious life over the powers of evil to believers in Jesus Christ. (See chapter 11 of the SDA Believe 2005 edition).

In the Fundamental beliefs, the Seventh-day Adventist Church emphasizes “We have not written this book to serve as a creed-a statement of belief set in theological concrete. Adventists have but one creed: “The Bible, and the Bible alone.’ ”- (SDA Believe page viii, 2005 edition).

The aim of writing the book “Seventh-day Adventist Believe” is to lead Adventist believers into a deeper relationship with Christ through a study of the Bible. Knowing Him and His will is vitally important in this age of deception, doctrinal pluralism, and apathy. Such a knowledge is the Christian’s only safeguard against those who “like grievous wolves,” will come speaking perverse things in order to subvert truth and destroy the faith of God’s people (see Acts 20:29, 30). Especially in these last days, to keep from being “carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men” (Ephesians 4:14), all must have a right concept of God’s character, government, and purposes. Only those who have fortified their minds with the truth of the Scriptures will be able to stand in the final conflict.

Also, it should be understood that while the aim is as shown in the above statements, the Church wrote the SDA Believe to assist those who are interested in knowing why we believe what we believe. The Seventh-day Adventist Believe, written by Adventists themselves, is not just window dressing. It was carefully researched; it represents an authentic exposition of Adventist beliefs. A Christ-centered doctrine performs three obvious functions: first, it edifies the church; second, it preserves the truth; and third, it communicates the gospel in all its richness.

Finally, as stated by the editors themselves, it is truth that “a true knowledge of God, His son, and the Holy Spirit is “a saving knowledge, and that is the theme the *Seventh-day Adventists Believe.* (see SDA Believe2005 edition page vi)

***NOTE:** Accuracy is assumed in this document. For more understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, I recommend that you read ‘The *Seventh-day Adventist Believe.’*

*This paper was written, to at least briefly present the shortest history of the development of the Seventh-day Adventist Doctrines.

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